

2020 General Election

Presidential, congressional and state elections

Course #	20FGE
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Nancy Mihevc, Jay Russell
Date and Time:	Monday, 9:30-11:30 10 weeks, starting September 21
Location:	Smith College, Dewey Hall Common
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: The seminar will examine various aspects (including the candidates, issues and tactics) of the presidential, congressional and state campaigns leading up to election day and, after the votes are counted, the implications of the election results.

Description: This seminar will focus, as much as possible from objective and non-partisan perspectives, on the presidential candidates' electoral and personal strengths and weaknesses and their positions on the issues. The seminar will also examine congressional and state elections and the consequences their outcomes may have beginning in 2021. The seminar will also analyze (1) unfolding current events that may significantly affect the outcome of the election, (2) factors (e.g., the state of the economy, cultural issues, etc.) that influence or determine voters' choices, and (3) key aspects of the political process (e.g., the role of social media) that play major roles in influencing election results.

Role of participants: Each participant will give a 20-25-minute presentation on a candidate, issue or aspect of the political process and will participate during the second half of each session in a round table discussion of campaign developments and participant responses to survey circulated by the moderators prior to each session.

Resources: TBA

About the Moderators: Nancy and Jay co-moderated this spring's primary and caucus season seminar. Jay, a retired attorney, "political junkie," and LIR member since 2013, also co-moderated the 2016 election seminars with Chuck Gillies. Nancy owns a company that conducted political polling at various levels and has volunteered for campaigns since 1960. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, she taught communication studies at UMass, including seminars on political communication.